

What to Bring

2009 ASM Field Session

Port Tobacco, Charles County

May 22 – June 1, 2009

Welcome to the 2009 Field Session, sponsored by the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc., with the assistance of the Maryland Historical Trust, and hosted by the Port Tobacco Archaeological Project of the Society for the Restoration of Port Tobacco. This information packet should help make your experience at Port Tobacco enjoyable, informative, and safe. Port Tobacco is an open air museum, still in its formative stage. Your participation in the field session and subsequent field and laboratory work will further our efforts at building a fully functional museum restoration village. The site is publicly accessible with parking on site. The hospital, motels, restaurants, and other commercial establishments are within three miles of the site in the county seat of La Plata. The 1970 reconstruction of the 1817 county courthouse provides shelter from inclement weather and a venue for workshops and other activities. The paved parking area is reserved for visitors: please park in the field.

What to Bring

The site is mowed lawn and all laboratory work probably will occur in front of the courthouse. Apart from hedgerows (where we will *not* be working), the site is free of poison ivy and brambles. Ticks, mosquitoes and deer flies, of course, are endemic. Dress appropriately and use both sunscreen and insect repellent.

Major equipment and supplies, including limited drinking water, are available. We prefer that participants pack a lunch to minimize off-site time and to avoid interfering with lunchtime activities, such as lectures and workshops; however, there are a variety of eateries in nearby La Plata. There is a convenience store within one (1) mile of the site with a very limited selection of snacks and beverages. Any tools or equipment needed will be available, but if you wish you may bring and use your own tools.

Here's a list for your consideration:

1. Work gloves
2. Insect repellent
3. Sunscreen
4. Raingear
5. Trowel
6. Pencil
7. CAT book (if you intend to fulfill some of the requirements for certification)
8. Lunch
9. Water container

Information/Sales

A combined information/sales area will be set up each day near the site. Please check in at the information table *each* day when you arrive. Some field equipment, including line levels, Marshalltown trowels, gloves, as well as special 2009 Field Session T-shirts, and a selection of books on archeology, will be available for sale each morning.

Agenda

Fieldwork will be from 8:00 AM to 4 PM each day with a lunch break from 12 noon to 1 PM. Orientation/safety lectures will be presented at 8:30 AM and 1 PM daily (as needed) to introduce new arrivals to the site and field procedures. Every Field Session participant must attend one orientation/safety lecture before participating.

A field lab will be set up near the site with the goal of cleaning and drying as much of the recovered material as possible by the end of the Field Session. Work in the lab provides an alternative for persons wanting a break from digging, from the sun, unable to dig, or missing an orientation.

Special Events

Events, such as lunchtime lectures and evening workshops will be scheduled throughout the session. Details will be posted as they become available.

Directions

Port Tobacco can be reached by taking MD 6 West from US 301 in La Plata, Charles County.

After a little more than two miles, veer left at Murphy's Market onto Chapel Point Road. (*Be exceedingly careful at this intersection!*)

Continue on Chapel Point Road for about 1 mile, pass the one-room schoolhouse, and then turn right onto Commerce Street. The courthouse is directly in front of you. Follow the parking lot around to the left and pull off into the parking field on your right. Please follow instructions posted on signs and do not block driveways. We want to leave the paved parking lot free for visitors.

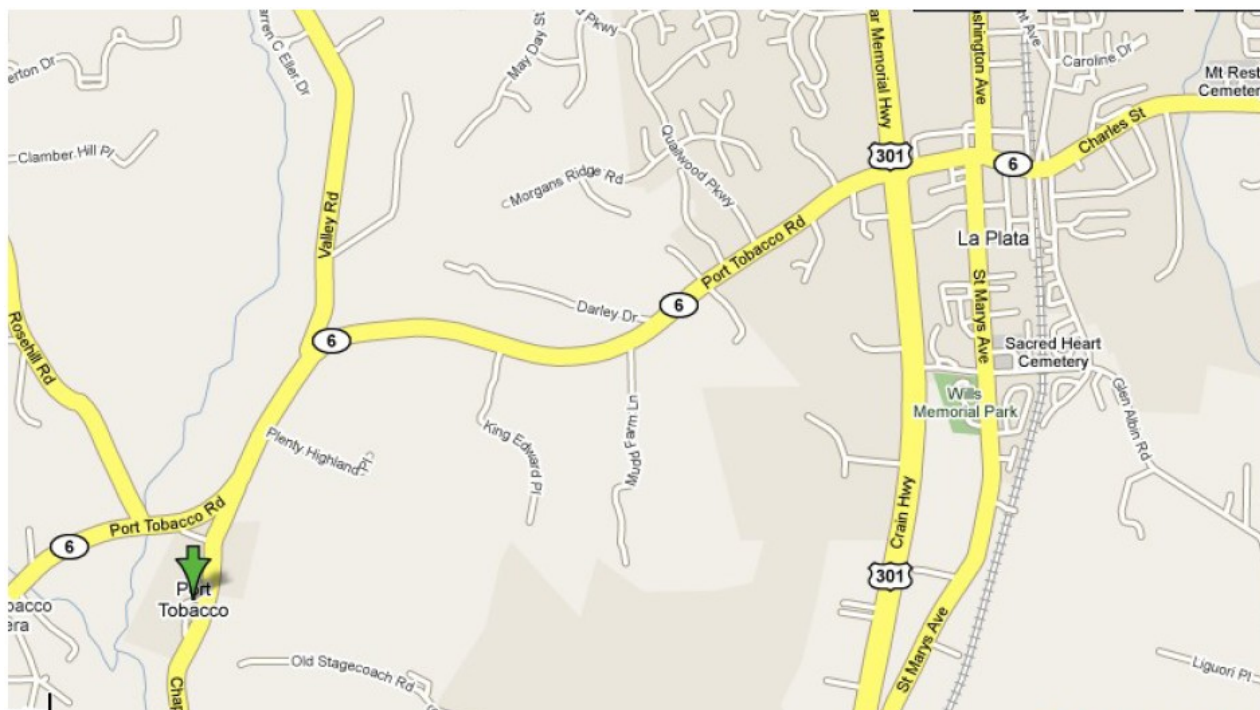


Figure. Street directions to Port Tobacco.

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